

# EU environmental policies



- Topics:**
- EU Green Deal
  - European Climate Law
  - Paris Agreement
  - Erasmus + opportunities



Age: 17+



Max. 25  
participants



115 minutes

## Pedagogical objectives

- Increase awareness of the EU's role in global environmental governance.
- Familiarise participants with key EU policies and programs addressing climate change.
- Enhance critical thinking on international measures and their local implications.
- Empower youth to engage in discussions and actions that support environmental goals.
- Cultivate a sense of responsibility as active EU citizens.

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## Necessary materials

- Printed or digital summaries of EU policies and agreements
- Projector for visual presentations
- Laptops or tablets for research
- Large world and EU maps
- Templates for mock policy proposals

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## Educational methods

- Interactive lectures with visuals
- Group debates and discussions
- Policy analysis through role-playing and simulations
- Collaborative project development
- Gamified quizzes to reinforce learning

## Activity description

- 1 Icebreaker (15 minutes):** Provide a brief introduction to the EU's environmental priorities, showing their connection to global challenges.

**Tip:** Start with a quiz on global and EU environmental efforts (e.g., "When was the Paris Agreement signed?" or "What is the Green Deal's goal?").

## 2 Understanding the framework (30 minutes)

- Divide the content into sections: Green Deal, Climate Law, Paris Agreement, etc.
- Provide short, engaging overviews of each topic using slides, videos, or infographics.

### 1. European Green Deal

- The European Green Deal is the EU's roadmap to transform its economy into a sustainable one, focusing on reducing emissions, promoting green technologies, and fostering economic growth while protecting the environment.
- European Commission: Visit [European Green Deal](#) for policies and updates.

### 2. European Climate Law

- The European Climate Law enshrines the EU's commitment to becoming climate-neutral by 2050, setting legally binding targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen climate resilience across all sectors.
- European Commission: Learn more on the [EU Climate Law page](#).

### 3. Paris Agreement

- The Paris Agreement is a global treaty aiming to limit global warming to well below 2°C, with efforts to limit it to 1.5°C, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable development.
- UNFCCC: Visit [UNFCCC Paris Agreement](#) for official details and updates.

**Tip:** Use platforms like [YouTube](#), [Canva](#), and [Piktochart](#) for visuals and interactive content. Use [Mentimeter](#) or [Kahoot](#) for polls and quizzes.

## 3 Policy role-playing game (45 minutes)

Participants are assigned to groups representing various stakeholders such as EU institutions, member states, and NGOs. The aim is to simulate real-world policy-making and negotiation within the EU.

### How it works:

- **Groups:** Each group represents a different EU institution (e.g., the European Commission, European Parliament), an EU member state (e.g., Croatia, France), or a non-governmental organisation (NGO).
- **Challenge Scenario:** Each group receives a challenge scenario that involves creating or negotiating a policy that supports EU environmental goals. These scenarios should reflect real-world issues, and the groups must develop solutions that balance environmental, social, and economic considerations.

**For example:**

- **Water scarcity management:** Develop a policy for managing water resources in drought-prone regions of the EU. How do you balance agricultural needs with water conservation efforts?
- **Sustainable agriculture:** Create policies that promote sustainable farming practices in the EU, ensuring food security while reducing carbon footprints.
- **Climate change adaptation:** Design a policy for adapting urban infrastructure to climate change, including flood protection and green spaces.
- **Eco-friendly transportation:** Develop a policy for incentivising electric vehicles and public transport to reduce emissions in cities.

Each group will present their proposed solution to the class, explaining how their policy achieves a balance environmentally, socially and economically. Participants should be prepared to defend their solutions, considering potential challenges.

#### 4 Connecting local and global (15 minutes)

Discuss how EU policies translate into action at national and local levels and share the [European Youth Portal](#) link. Programs like Erasmus+ offers various opportunities for young people interested in sustainability. Here are some key opportunities:

- **Youth exchanges:** Collaborate on sustainability projects (e.g., waste reduction, climate action, renewable energy).
- **Volunteering projects:** Join environmental protection efforts and raise awareness about climate issues.
- **Training and education:** Develop skills through seminars on sustainability and environmental conservation.

**Tip:** Find out more in the sheet [Engaging Youth with Environmental Action and Sustainability in the EU](#) which you can find at the end of EcoQuest project page.

#### 5 Wrap up (10 minutes)

- Participants share one thing they learned about EU environmental policies.
- Participants share key takeaways and personal connections, focusing on how they can contribute to environmental action.

**Tip:** Share a success story of a young person involved in an Erasmus+ sustainability project and conclude with a motivational video to inspire continued activism.

## To go further

- ✚ **Eurodesk** is an excellent platform offering a lot of information and resources for young people interested in international opportunities, including volunteering, study, training, and work experiences in Europe. Eurodesk provides detailed information on various European mobility programs, including Erasmus+, and other youth-focused initiatives.
- ✚ The **Erasmus+** program offers a wide range of opportunities for individuals, including study abroad, training, volunteering, enhancing education, gaining new skills, and engaging in international experiences.
- ✚ EU programs supporting sustainable development:
  - **The LIFE Program** funds projects aimed at protecting the environment, combating climate change, and promoting sustainable development. It supports initiatives focused on resource efficiency, emissions reduction, and the transition to a circular economy.
  - **Horizon Europe** is the EU's research and innovation program that funds projects addressing global challenges, including climate change, clean energy, and sustainable agriculture. It supports innovative solutions for a sustainable future.

## Sources and additional resources

- European Commission. (n.d.). [European Commission Official Website](#).
- European Environment Agency. (2025). [Climate change mitigation: reducing emissions](#).



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